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snake. (I was wholly unarmed during my tete-a-tete with rattler No. 2). But in spite of a variety of pokings with my iron bar, I failed to elicit from this individual, rattle or any real effort to strike, or other evidence of fear or solicitude about safety. Indeed, it almost seemed as though this creature was abnormal in some way, though I saw no evidence of this beyond what has just been indicated.

After I had spent as much time with the snake as I thought profitable, I went on my way and he did the same, in seemingly normal fashion.

Wherefore the difference in behavior of these two individual rattlesnakes? Any answer I might give to the question would be almost wholly speculative. The indubitable facts deserving special attention are these: Snake No. 1 made not the slightest effort toward self-preservation, though under the provocation of great danger. On the other hand, snake No. 2, while not in the least danger, set up a noise which, so far as the act itself was concerned, was an invitation to certain death.

Since writing the above I have mentioned the case to my colleague, Dr. F. B. Sumner, whose work leads him a good deal over the mesas in this region. He remarks, "I can duplicate your observation several times over." Surely there is much yet to be learned about the ways of rattlesnakes!"

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THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN NEWT

I can add a fact to the notes on this species (*Notoptthalmus viridescens*) by Mr. P. H. Pope, in Copeia, No. 91. Namely that in this locality the newts do not stay in the water during the summer, but losing the dermal fin on the tail leave the water sometime in the spring and do not enter it again till about November. Time and time again have I tried to get newts in early

fall in places where they were usually common later on, but without success. On November 6, 1915, while out collecting I got to looking for salamanders and among others found half a dozen of the land form, all full grown and apparently getting ready to enter the water. In near-by pools I caught about ten more, mostly with roughened skin and narrow tail, showing that they had only recently entered the water.

In the spring of 1920 I kept several newts for some months in an aquarium, but they lost the dermal fin to the tail, became rougher skinned and stayed out of the water as much as possible till I got tired of seeing them look miserable, and set them free in some thick ivy vines in my garden where they could get plenty of shelter and moisture. I did not note the date. My experience agrees with that of Mr. Pope, that the land form is not often met with and also that the adult water form is always fully grown. Of course, in this locality where the land form appears to be a summer as well as an early stage, the land form attains as large a size as the water form.

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